



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

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IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: **WM-5**

July 7, 2005

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Donald L. Wolfe  
Acting Director of Public Works

### **LOS ANGELES RIVER MASTER PLAN – ANNUAL STATUS REPORT**

Public Works continues to coordinate the implementation of the Los Angeles River Master Plan (LARMP) as adopted by your Board on June 13, 1996. We currently chair the LARMP Advisory Committee on a quarterly basis and participate in the planning, review, and design of all projects that impact the river right of way. As we approach the Master Plan's 10-year anniversary, we will continue to work with your offices to ensure that the LARMP vision is fulfilled. Attachment A is a list of project updates for each Supervisorial District within the Los Angeles River jurisdiction.

Please have your staff contact Terri Grant, Assistant Division Head of our Watershed Management Division, at (626) 458-4309 if you require additional project information or would like to propose other projects along the river.

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Attach.

cc: Chief Administrative Office  
Executive Office  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
Department of Regional Planning

## **ATTACHMENT A**

### **LOS ANGELES RIVER MASTER PLAN PROJECTS IN EACH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT**

#### First Supervisorial District

Public Works completed survey and concept plans for the Elysian Valley River Access Improvements project and began working with the City of Los Angeles and Third Supervisorial District to provide community outreach before beginning the project design. North East Trees is currently conducting a study to determine how Best Management Practices, such as biofiltration, can be integrated at street ends to treat stormwater runoff.

Public Works drafted a Project Concept Report for the development of the Cudahy Riverfront Greenway project. We will be working with the City of Cudahy and First Supervisorial District to secure a maintenance sponsor and to coincide our project schedule with the City's development of pocket parks along River Road.

Public Works approved a Project Concept Report for the development of the Bell Riverfront Greenway project, which will extend between Gage and Florence Avenues.

In September 2004, Public Works installed "Los Angeles River Bike Path" directional signs along Fletcher and Glendale Boulevards as a demonstration project. In February 2005, we installed "Los Angeles River" directional signs along Riverside Drive in Elysian Valley.

Public Works executed a grant agreement with the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for installation of warning, directional, and mile marker signs along the river bike path from Atlantic Boulevard in the City of Vernon to the mouth of the river in Long Beach.

Public Works attended and will continue to participate in the meetings for the Cornfield and Taylor Yard State Parks. The 40-acre Taylor Yard State Park is currently under construction and will be open to the public by summer 2006. Approximately 10 acres of the 32-acre Cornfield Park are under construction and will open for interim public use by summer 2005.

Public Works continues to participate in the City of Los Angeles Ad Hoc River Committee meetings to ensure that proposed developments do not conflict with the Master Plan interests. In the past year, Public Works has been involved with review, planning, and development efforts related to the following:

- Confluence Area Coordination Group meetings, which were requested by First Supervisorial District, are held to coordinate project efforts in the Los Angeles River and Arroyo Seco confluence area.
- City of Los Angeles' Riverside Drive Bridge Widening project and the connection of the river bike path from the river at Barclay Street to Avenue 19 and to Spring Street.
- Finalization of the Pueblo Lake study.
- Issuance of User Agreements to permit use of Flood Control District right of way for the Phase IC bikeway (between Fletcher Drive and Barclay Street).
- Review of the Revitalization Plan Request for Proposals, which was released February 1, 2005.
- Presentations at Ad Hoc Task Force meetings and the City's community meetings.
- Signs at all river bridges throughout the City of Los Angeles.

In November 2004, City of Los Angeles voters approved Proposition O, the \$500 million Clean Water and Beaches bond measure. Proposition O will support the implementation of the Los Angeles River Master Plan through greenway, water quality, and other environmental enhancement projects.

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority is in the process of designing the Confluence Park project.

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority has completed conceptual plans for the Marsh Street park site in Elysian Valley, which will include accommodations for a skate park and will detain the stormwater runoff flows that currently flood the project site.

### Third Supervisorial District

In June 2004, Public Works completed the Valleyheart Greenway project, which is located on the south side of the river between Laurel Canyon Boulevard and Radford Avenue in Studio City. The project includes amenities, such as a toad gate, decorative fencing, native landscaping, and a snake retaining wall.

In July 2004, Public Works completed the Ernie's Walk Expansion project, which is located on the north side of the river between Cedros and Kester Streets in Sherman Oaks. The project includes amenities, such as native landscaping, improved access points, a decomposed granite path, and river rock walls.

Public Works drafted a Project Concept Report for the Los Angeles River Headwaters Phase I, which extends between Jordan and Mason Avenues. Design of Phase I is currently underway. Concept plans were completed for Phase II, which extends between Topanga Canyon Boulevard and Jordan Avenue, and we will be working with Canoga Park High School to resolve access and drainage concerns before beginning design.

Public Works and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority are in the process of finalizing design of the Tujunga Wash Greenway and Stream Restoration project. On April 20, 2005, the 8th Annual Los Angeles River Master Plan Earth Day event was held at the site as a groundbreaking for construction of the project.

Public Works completed a conceptual landscape plan for the Nichols Sediment Placement site in Toluca Lake. The project proposes to landscape the right of way along the river between Lankershim Boulevard and the sediment placement site located south of Aqua Vista Street.

Public Works is currently discussing a project opportunity with the City of Burbank and Warner Bros. Studios. The project would extend between Bob Hope Drive and Warner Bros. Studios, and would provide landscaping and other passive recreational amenities along the river.

As mentioned in the First Supervisorial District update, the City of Los Angeles' Ad Hoc River Committee also impacts river efforts in the Third Supervisorial District. With regards to the Third Supervisorial District, Public Works has been involved with the review, planning, and development efforts related to the following:

- Review of the Revitalization Plan Request for Proposals, which was released February 1, 2005.
- Signs at all river bridges throughout the City of Los Angeles.
- Permit for safety mile marker signs in the Glendale Narrows reach of the river.
- Permit for signs at catch basins that drain to the river in Studio City.
- Support for accommodating the river bike path in the San Fernando Valley as the City proposes to widen several river bridges.

As mentioned in the First Supervisorial District update, in November 2004, City of Los Angeles voters approved Proposition O, the \$500 million Clean Water and Beaches bond measure. Proposition O will support the implementation of the Los Angeles River Master Plan through greenway, water quality, and other environmental enhancement projects.

#### Fourth Supervisorial District

As mentioned in the First Supervisorial District update, Public Works executed a grant agreement with the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for installation of warning, directional, and mile marker signs along the river bike path from Atlantic Boulevard in the City of Vernon to the mouth of the river in Long Beach.

In summer 2004, we were notified that we did not receive a grant from the Urban Park Act of 2001 (Proposition 40) for the development of the Wrigley Greenbelt site. Public Works will be developing concept plans and will continue to pursue other funding options.

Public Works is currently working on the 30 percent design and environmental documentation for the Dominguez Gap and DeForest Wetlands projects. For these projects, Public Works has received \$2.35 million from the Proposition 13 CALFED Drinking Water Program, \$200,000 from the Proposition 40 monies administered through the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, and \$400,000 from the California Coastal Conservancy's Wetland Recovery project.

#### All Supervisorial Districts

Assembly Bill 1147 (AB 1147), which was approved in September 2000, proposes that the County of Los Angeles receive a partial reimbursement for the funding spent on the Los Angeles County Drainage Area project. To qualify for the reimbursement, the County of Los Angeles is required to work with an AB 1147 Advisory Group to adopt a plan for undertaking restoration projects along the Los Angeles River and related tributaries.

In the past year, Public Works held special AB 1147 Advisory meetings to develop and approve an outline for the AB 1147 Plan to get \$30 million of subvention State funds. We finalized a web-based form to identify and list projects within the Los Angeles River Watershed, while we wait on the State to appoint new representatives for further discussion.

Public Works submitted project proposals for consideration in the Proposition 50 Chapter 8, Integrated Resources Watershed Management Plan process.

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